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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	1. Living Conditions in Kangwŏn Province and the Wonsan Area	DATE DISTR.	11 February 1954
	2. Factories, Farmers, and Employment in Kangwŏn Province	NO. OF PAGES	3
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Registration

1. In October 1953, in order to register his intention to live in a certain area, the citizen of Kangwŏn Province was required to present his citizenship card to the head of the ri sub-division. There a registration certificate was issued which was then verified by the ri peoples' committee. The citizen then registered with the ri office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA).
2. When leaving the area, application was made to the ri sub-division for a departure certificate. This certificate had then to be approved by the Citizenship Registration Section of the ri peoples' committee and the local office of the MIA. Applications for a departure certificate and travel orders were made at the same time.

Temporary Lodging

3. In the Wŏnsan area, hotels and inns were available for temporary lodging where guests were required to register. There were no restrictions on the length of stay so long as the guest possessed the proper documents. Temporary lodging could be obtained in private homes upon approval of the local police.

Restaurants

4. There were two types of restaurants in the Wŏnsan area, the restaurants of the Consumer's Guild and the small-scale privately owned establishments which sold mostly Korean brandy and rice cakes.
5. Cigarettes were not sold in restaurants, but at street stands and markets. Some of the brands were P'aektusan, Pugang, Kumgang, Chebi, Simgni, and Chinese makes.

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Theatres and Movies

6. There were no restrictions of the purchase of movie and theatre tickets. Theatres had emergency exits. MIA officials have been observed standing at the entrance of theatres but security checks in the theatres were not common. The average movie lasted for two hours, and a play for two and a half to three hours.

Curfew and Document Check

7. Since the cease-fire in July 1953, there has been no curfew in the Wonsan area. Prior to that time there was a curfew from 2300 hours until 0500 hours which was strictly obeyed.
8. Document checks were often performed in the streets, however, checks were infrequently made in the market places. MIA authorities checked the documents of civilians, and the military police checked those of military personnel.

Wearing Apparel

9. Office workers wore suits received from China and Soviet satellite countries as relief goods. The laboring class wore worn-out and discarded Chinese Communist Forces uniforms and the customary Korean dress. Clothing was not rationed, and new clothing was available on the market. Some middle class persons wore United States Army olive drab uniforms which could be purchased on the market at less cost than suits. The government had made some clothing allotments to government and factory employees from relief clothing.

Medical and Dental Treatment

10. Free medical and dental treatment was given at the people's hospitals upon presentation of a certificate issued by the organization employing the patient. A patient lacking such a certificate was required to pay for medical and dental care.
11. In the spring and summer of 1953, the Sanitation Section of the people's committee through the facilities of the hospitals enforced immunization certificates.

Food Allotment

12. Free rice was allotted to army personnel and their families, veterans, government employees, and factory workers. Rice could be obtained from the Food Section of the gun people's committee upon presentation of a resident's certificate and employment certificate.

Commodity Prices

13. Commodity prices quoted in North Korean won on the Wonsan market as of 8 October 1953 were as follows:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price in Won</u>
White rice	one small mal ¹	1,200
Annamese rice	one small mal	900
Millet	one small mal	900
Sorghum seed	one small mal	350
Soy beans	one small mal	350
Corn	one small mal	350
Flour	one small mal	350

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Factories

14. The Munp'yŏng Iron Factory at Munp'yŏng-ni (N 39-14, E 127-21) (CU-5844), Kangwŏn Province, was under reconstruction, scheduled for completion in October 1953, and would employ 5,000 workers.
15. The Ch'ŏnnae-ri Cement Factory at Ch'ŏnnae-ri (N 39-22, E 127-12) (CU-4559), Kangwŏn Province, has been operating since 1 May 1953. Most of the machinery was installed underground. The cement products were transported by North Korean army trucks. On 10 May 1953, approximately 350 workers were employed at the factory.

Farm Situation

16. Before the fall of 1953, most of the farmers in North Korea were mobilized for public labor and as a result they spent more time at public labor than at operating their farms. Because of a lack of chemical fertilizers, the annual rice production was below average. In 1952 the farmers suffered from hunger. As a temporary relief, Communist China loaned rice to the North Korean Government which was issued to the farmers, and was to be repaid from the 1952 harvest. After repayment plus a tax in kind of fifty percent to the North Korean government, the farmers were again short of food. In the spring of 1953 they were subsisting on grass.

Employment Situation

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17. In order to gain employment with any government controlled organization, applicants had to be members of the Korean Labor Party [REDACTED] to be recommended by the KLP, People's Democratic Youth Alliance, Vocational Alliance, or other Communist organization.
18. Persons who cooperated with United Nations forces during the occupation of North Korea, who were members of the Taehan Youth Corps or Self-Defense Corps, or whose families had fled to South Korea, lost their jobs and became engaged in farming.

25X1A 1. [REDACTED] comment. A small mal equals 1/4 bushel.

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